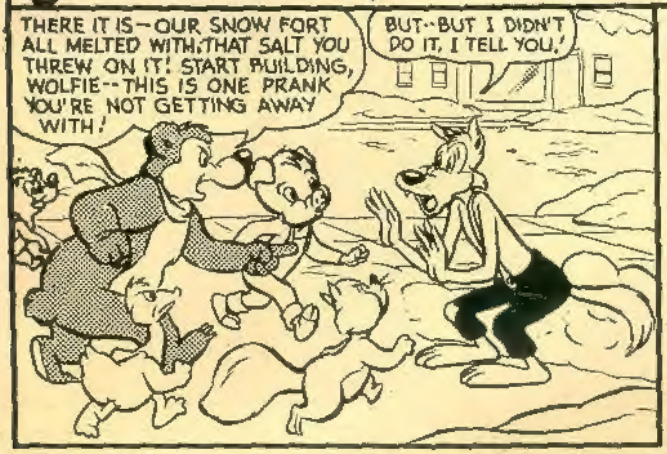
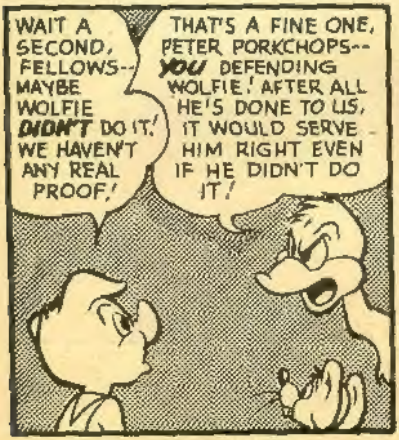
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
10¢
APR.-MAY
NO. 25
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MYSTERY IN SPACE
Featuring
AN AMAZING PLANET-TO-PLANET TELECAST!
"STATION MARS ON THE AIR!"
PEOPLE OF MARS, THESE RUINS YOU SEE WERE ONCE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST STRUCTURE, THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!

PETER PORKCHOPS Says: "DON'T BE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP!"


THERE IT IS—OUR SNOW FORT ALL MELTED WITH THAT SALT YOU THREW ON IT! START BUILDING, WOLFIE—THIS IS ONE PRANK YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH!
BUT—BUT I DIDN'T DO IT, I TELL YOU!

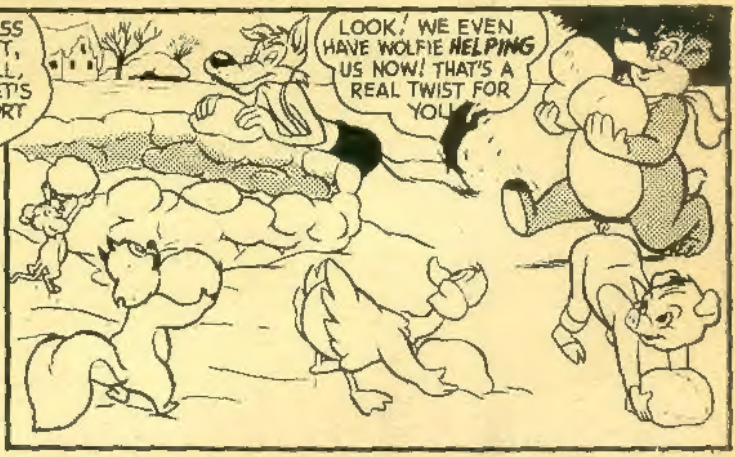
YAH, YAH, YOU DIDN'T DO IT! THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS SAY AND THEN WE FIND YOU DID!
GOSH! WOLFIE IS INNOCENT! I SAW WHO REALLY MELTED THE FORT—BUT THE FELLOWS MIGHT BE MAD AT ME IF I STUCK UP FOR WOLFIE!


WAIT A SECOND, FELLOWS—MAYBE WOLFIE DIDN'T DO IT! WE HAVEN'T ANY REAL PROOF!
THAT'S A FINE ONE, PETER PORKCHOPS—YOU DEFENDING WOLFIE! AFTER ALL HE'S DONE TO US, IT WOULD SERVE HIM RIGHT EVEN IF HE DIDN'T DO IT!

I STILL DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT...
GOLLY! IF PETER HAS THE NERVE TO BUTT IN WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THE TRUTH—I OUGHTTA SPEAK UP, EVEN THOUGH I'M SORTA AFRAID OF GETTING IN BAD WITH THE FELLOWS!

I—I GOTTA TELL YOU SOMETHING—I—I SAW THE SNOW TRUCK PASSING HERE LAST NIGHT AND WHILE THEY WERE SCATTERING SALT AROUND, SOME OF IT ACCIDENTALLY LANDED ON OUR FORT...
AW, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SPOIL THINGS—NOW WE CAN'T GET EVEN WITH WOLFIE!

IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO GET THE TRUTH—AND MERVIN MOUSE HAD THE COURAGE TO SPEAK UP, EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO BE UNPOPULAR!
YEAH...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, PETER... WELL, COME ON, LET'S GET THAT FORT BUILT!



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STATION MARS ON THE AIR!

MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY IN SPACE, THE SCIENTISTS OF MARS TURNED A NEW TELESCOPE ON EARTH--AND OBTAINED A REMARKABLE CLOSE-UP VIEW OF OUR WORLD! ENCOURAGED BY THE SIGNS OF CIVILIZED LIFE THEY SAW, A MARTIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE--ONLY TO FIND EARTH TOTALLY DESTROYED! THAT WAS ONLY HALF OF THE CURIOUS COSMIC RIDDLE--FOR WHEN THE MARTIANS RETURNED TO THEIR PLANET AND LOOKED THROUGH THEIR TELESCOPE, EARTH WAS AGAIN AS THEY ORIGINALLY SAW IT--ALIVE, WITH NO SIGNS OF DESTRUCTION!

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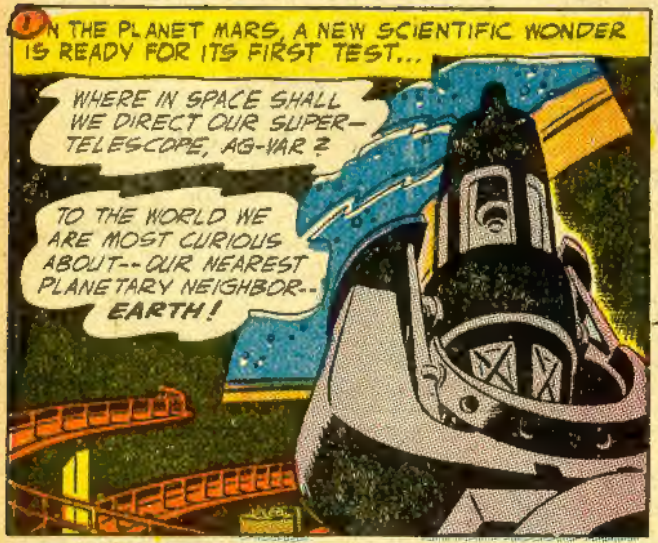
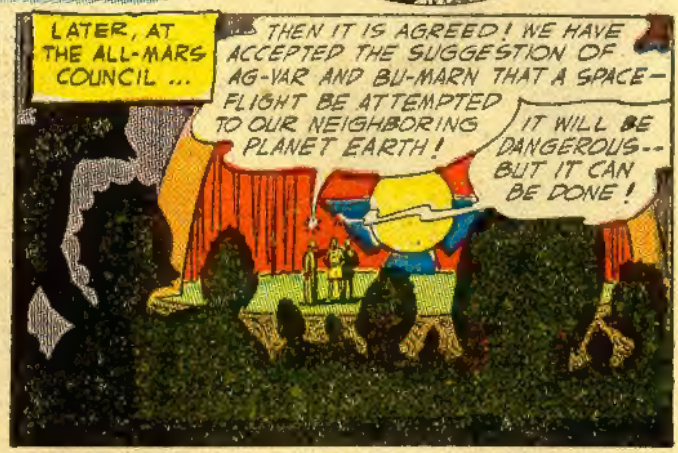

1 IN THE PLANET MARS, A NEW SCIENTIFIC WONDER IS READY FOR ITS FIRST TEST...
WHERE IN SPACE SHALL WE DIRECT OUR SUPER-TELESCOPE, AG-VAR?
TO THE WORLD WE ARE MOST CURIOUS ABOUT--OUR NEAREST PLANETARY NEIGHBOR--EARTH!

WHAT GIGANTIC STRUCTURES THEY HAVE ERECTED THERE!
HOW STRANGE THE EARTHMEN LOOK, BU-MARN!

NO DOUBT WE SHOULD APPEAR AS STRANGE TO THEM, AG-VAR! BUT THEY SEEM VERY CIVILIZED! I AM GOING TO RECOMMEND TO THE ALL-MARS COUNCIL THAT OUR FIRST SPACE-EXPEDITION BE SENT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THEM!


LATER, AT THE ALL-MARS COUNCIL ...
THEN IT IS AGREED! WE HAVE ACCEPTED THE SUGGESTION OF AG-VAR AND BU-MARN THAT A SPACE-FLIGHT BE ATTEMPTED TO OUR NEIGHBORING PLANET EARTH!
IT WILL BE DANGEROUS--BUT IT CAN BE DONE!

MANY MARTIAN DAYS LATER, A GREAT SHIP CLEAVES ITS WAY UPWARD INTO SPACE...
THERE THEY GO... BUT WILL THEY RETURN? NO ONE HAS EVER PENETRATED THE MYSTERIES OF SPACE BETWEEN WORLDS!

ON THE MARTIAN SHIP, PERIL AFTER PERIL IS MET AND OVERCOME...
SPACE SEEMS TO BE EXPLODING ALL AROUND US!
AN IONIC STORM!
SWITCH OFF ALL ELECTRICAL MOTORS! LET THE SHIP CARRY ON BY ITS MOMENTUM ALONE....

SOON AFTER, WITH THE ION-STORM SAFELY BEHIND...
LOOK! THERE IS EARTH--DIRECTLY BELOW US!
BEGIN BRAKING OPERATION! PREPARE FOR DE-SCENT!

SOON AFTER, AS THE SPACE-VOYAGERS DEBARK, AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT GREETS THEM...

THE CITY IS IN RUINS--AND THERE IS NO LIFE HERE AT ALL!

B-BUT ONLY DAYS AGO, ON MARS, WE SAW NO SIGNS OF DISASTER! WHEN--HOW--DID THIS ALL HAPPEN?

AS SPECIAL SPACE-TELEVISION TRANSMITTERS ARE SET UP...

PEOPLE OF MARS! YOU ARE NOW VIEWING THIS GREAT CITY ON EARTH--DESTROYED BY SOME MYSTERIOUS BLIGHT THAT STRUCK EVEN THE STONE FOUNDATIONS OF THE BUILDINGS...

SADLY, THE EXPEDITION PREPARES TO RETURN..

WILL WE EVER KNOW WHAT TERRIBLE DOOM DEVASTATED THIS PLANET SO SUDDENLY?

BUT BACK ON MARS, AS BU-MARN AND AG-VAR AGAIN LOOK THROUGH THE GREAT TELESCOPE...

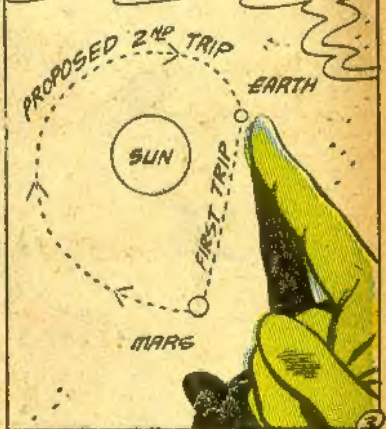
UNBELIEVABLE! THE EARTH IS AGAIN AS WE ORIGINALLY SAW IT--ALIVE--WITH NO SIGN OF DISASTER! BUT WE SAW IT DEAD--DESTROYED! HOW--??

THEN SUDDENLY, BU-MARN'S COLLEAGUE HITS UPON A POSSIBLE ANSWER...

IT MUST BE THAT IN TRAVELING FROM MARS TO EARTH WE PASSED THROUGH A ***TIME-WARP*** THAT CAUSED US TO SLIP INTO THE FUTURE! WHAT WE SAW ON EARTH IS A DISASTER THAT ***WILL*** STRIKE THEM!

THEN IT IS OUR DUTY TO WARN THE EARTH-PEOPLE OF THE APPROACHING DOOM! UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING ***WHEN*** IT WILL STRIKE--THEREFORE WE MUST RETURN TO EARTH IMMEDIATELY...

...AND THIS TIME WE MUST AVOID THE ***TIME-WARP***! I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT BY CIRCLING THE LONG WAY AROUND THE SUN INSTEAD OF HEADING FOR EARTH DIRECTLY!



THUS IT HAPPENS THAT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 27, 1955, CERTAIN FARMERS IN NEW ENGLAND VIEW AN AMAZING SIGHT...

LOOK!

IT--IT'S A SPACE-SHIP FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

AS THE HATCHWAYS OF THE VESSEL OPEN NOISELESSLY, AND THE SPACE-VISITORS EMERGE...

WHAT STRANGE-LOOKING CREATURES!

THEY MAY BE ARMED! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

BY TELEVISION AND RADIO, HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SWIFTLY ACT TO ALLAY THE FEARS OF THE PEOPLE...

...AND THE VISITORS FROM SPACE HAVE SO FAR SHOWN NOT THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION OF ATTACKING US! THERE IS NO REASON TO FEAR THEM! WE MUST WELCOME THEM IN THE SAME MANNER WE SHOULD EXPECT TO BE GREETED WHEN WE LAND ON ANOTHER WORLD...

WBTV

OUR MAIN DIFFICULTY IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DECIPHER THEIR LANGUAGE! OUR SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT THE SPACE-MEN ARE USING A TYPE OF *TELEPATHY* WHICH IS BEYOND US...

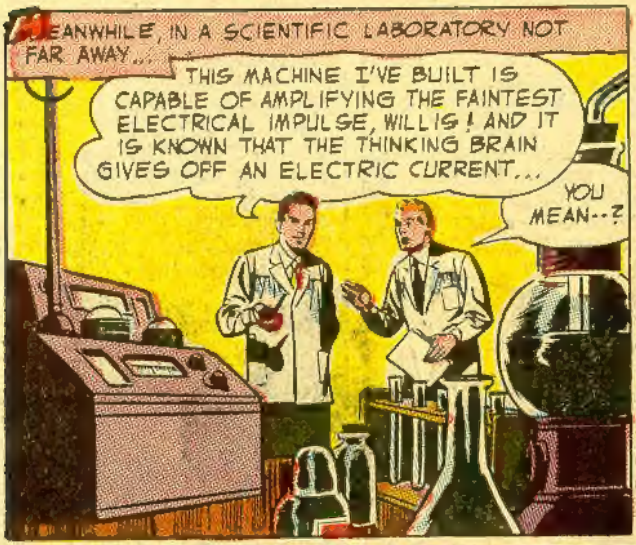
BUT FANATICAL GROUPS IGNORE THE COUNSEL OF THE AUTHORITIES...

DRIVE THEM BACK! WE DON'T WANT ANY FOREIGNERS HERE ON EARTH!

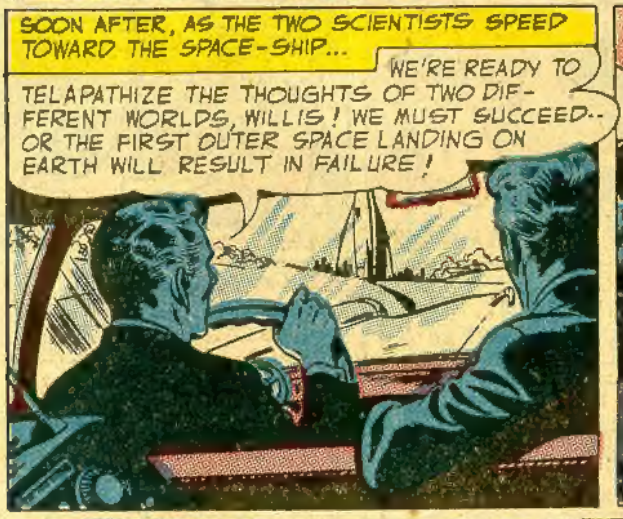
GO HOME, SPACE-MEN-- GO HOME!

PINNED IN THEIR SHIP BY THE ATTACKS, THE MARTIANS CONFER ANXIOUSLY...

THE ATTACKING EARTH PEOPLE MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF THE COMING DISASTER TO THEIR PLANET! OUR MISSION WILL FAIL UNLESS...

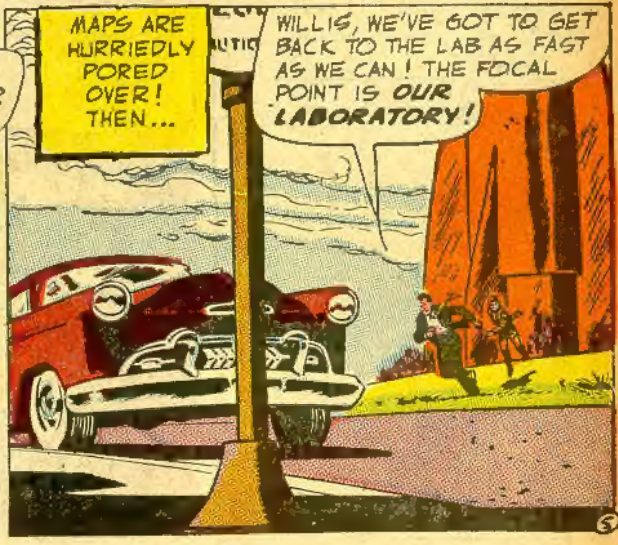

MEANWHILE, IN A SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY NOT FAR AWAY...
THIS MACHINE I'VE BUILT IS CAPABLE OF AMPLIFYING THE FAINTEST ELECTRICAL IMPULSE, WILLIS! AND IT IS KNOWN THAT THE THINKING BRAIN GIVES OFF AN ELECTRIC CURRENT...
YOU MEAN--?

YES, WILLIS! I AM GOING TO TRY TO "TUNE IN" ON THE TELEPATHIC BRAIN WAVES OF THE CREATURES WHO HAVE LANDED HERE! PERHAPS IN THAT WAY WE CAN MAKE INTELLIGENT CONTACT WITH THEM!


SOON AFTER, AS THE TWO SCIENTISTS SPEED TOWARD THE SPACE-SHIP...
WE'RE READY TO TELAPATHIZE THE THOUGHTS OF TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, WILLIS! WE MUST SUCCEED--OR THE FIRST OUTER SPACE LANDING ON EARTH WILL RESULT IN FAILURE!

SHORTLY AFTER THE DEVICE HAS BEEN SET UP NEAR THE SHIP...
...EARTHMEN... CAN YOU UNDERSTAND US?...
I'M GETTING THROUGH--I UNDERSTAND THE PROJECTIONS OF THAT CREATURE IN THERE! BUT WAIT--! WHAT'S HE TELLING ME?

... AND WE HAVE FIGURED OUT THAT THE FOCAL POINT OF THE COMING DISASTER IS AT A SITE NEAR HERE...
EARTH LATITUDE 41°12'... LONGITUDE... 71°81'!


MAPS ARE HURRIEDLY PORED OVER! THEN...
WILLIS, WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE LAB AS FAST AS WE CAN! THE FOCAL POINT IS OUR LABORATORY!

SOON AFTER, AS THE DUO BURSTS INTO THE LABORATORY...
LOOK, WILLIS -- THAT NEW CHEMICAL WE'VE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH -- IT'S SPREADING -- DESTROYING EVERYTHING AROUND IT!

IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE ALL-CONSUMING CHEMICAL, DR. BENTON POURS SOLUTION AFTER SOLUTION ON IT, UNTIL...
AQUA REGIA -- THE ONLY ACID THAT DISSOLVES GOLD -- ALSO DESTROYS THE NEW CHEMICAL!
EARTH IS SAVED!

AT THAT MOMENT ON THE SPACE-SHIP...
AG-VAR, ACCORDING TO THE EMANATIONS FROM THE MIND OF THE EARTH SCIENTIST, DR. BENTON, WHICH I AM RECEIVING, THE DANGER WAS A NEW CHEMICAL WHICH THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING!

THEN OUR MISSION HERE IS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED! EARTH WILL NOT BE THREATENED BY THE DISASTER WE SAW ON OUR FIRST TRIP HERE!
LET'S RELAY THE GOOD NEWS BACK TO MARS!

BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS TELEVISED REPORT, BU-MARN EXPLAINS AN ODDITY OF THEIR ADVENTURE...
...AND IN THE "TIME STREAM" THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE FUTURES! WHEN WE ORIGINALLY SAW EARTH DESTROYED THAT WAS ONLY ONE OF THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES -- WHICH HAS NOW BEEN ELIMINATED BY THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MALIGNANT CHEMICAL...

SOON AFTER, THE FIGURES SALUTE THE MARTIAN SPACE-SHIP AS IT SPEEDS HOMEWARD...
GOOD-BYE... GOOD LUCK... AND THANKS TO YOU FROM ALL OF US HERE ON EARTH!
The End

To the Boys and Girls of America—

THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL IS YOUR GUARANTEE

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

OF THE *BEST* IN COMICS READING

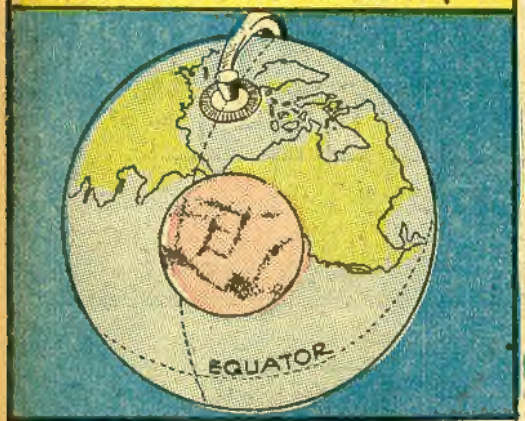
For Example

DC
MY GREATEST ADVENTURE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
featuring "I TRACKED the BEAST of MONTROUGE FOREST!"
ALSO: "MY MILLION DOLLAR DRIVE!" "I RODE WITH A MOUNTAIN BANDIT!"
WORLD'S GREATEST ADVENTURE CHARACTER!
SUPERMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN IMPISH VISITOR FROM ANOTHER WORLD TAKES OVER A BIG CITY?
Read Mr. MXYZPTLK, MAYOR of METROPOLIS!
IT'S THE MAYOR TURNED FIREMAN—PUTTING OUT THE FIRE WITH ONE OF HIS MAGICAL TRICKS!

All SUPERMAN-DC COMICS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CODE AUTHORITY!

MYSTERIES in SPACE!

CAN THE PLANETS **MERCURY** AND **VENUS** EVER BE SEEN DURING THE NIGHT?

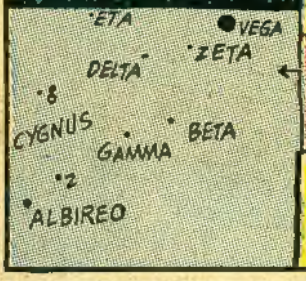


RELATIVE SIZES OF THE EARTH AND PLANET MERCURY ONLY PEOPLE ON THE SUNWARD SIDE OF EARTH CAN SEE MERCURY.

***MERCURY** AND **VENUS**, THE ONLY TWO PLANETS CLOSER TO THE SUN THAN THE EARTH, CAN BE SEEN JUST BEFORE SUNRISE OR AFTER SUNSET, BUT NEVER DURING THE NIGHT. AT NIGHT, WHEN OUR SECTION OF THE EARTH IS TURNED **AWAY** FROM THE SUN, WE CAN SEE ONLY THE PLANETS REVOLVING IN ORBITS OUTSIDE THE EARTH.!*

IF THE SPACE BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE STARS WERE FILLED WITH MATTER AS DENSE AS ONE WHIFF OF CIGARETTE SMOKE EVERY CUBIC MILE, HOW WOULD IT EFFECT OUR OBSERVATION OF THE STARS?

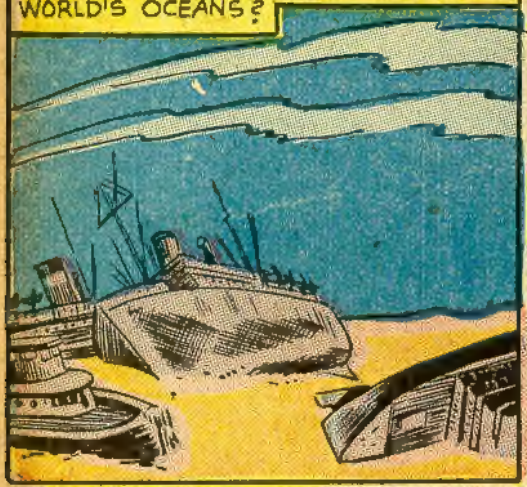
↑ ABOVE: A SECTION OF THE MILKY WAY.



LEFT: DIAGRAM SHOWS IMPORTANT STARS IN SAME SECTION OF THE MILKY WAY.

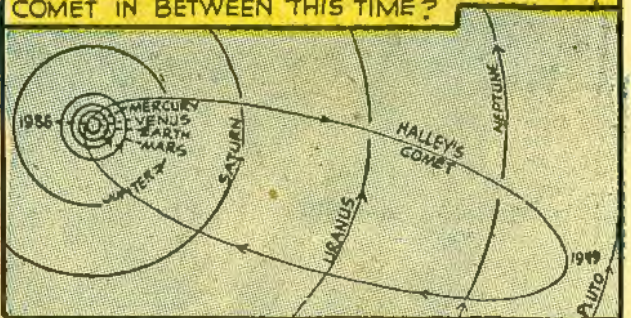
THE INTERSTELLAR MATTER WOULD COMPLETELY BLOT OUT THE STARS FROM OUR VIEW!

WHAT EFFECT WOULD THE SUDDEN STOPPING OF THE EARTH HAVE UPON THE WORLD'S OCEANS?



THE OCEANS WOULD ALL RUSH TOWARD THE NORTH OR SOUTH POLE, ENGULFING THE LANDS AND EVEN THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS, LEAVING THE BOTTOM OF THE EQUATORIAL OCEANS EXPOSED AS DRY LAND.

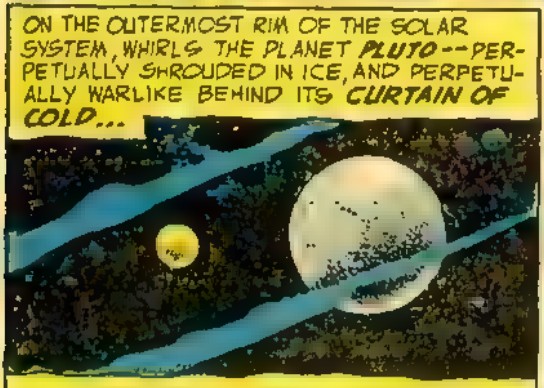
***HALLEY'S COMET** "RETURNS TO EARTH" AT INTERVALS OF ABOUT 77 YEARS. LAST SEEN IN 1910, IT WON'T REAPPEAR TILL 1986. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COMET IN BETWEEN THIS TIME?*



***HALLEY'S COMET** TRAVELS IN A REGULAR ORBIT THAT CARRIES IT BEYOND THE PLANET NEPTUNE. IN 1949, THE COMET REACHED ITS GREATEST DISTANCE FROM THE SUN, AND IS NOW HEADING SUNWARD AGAIN.*

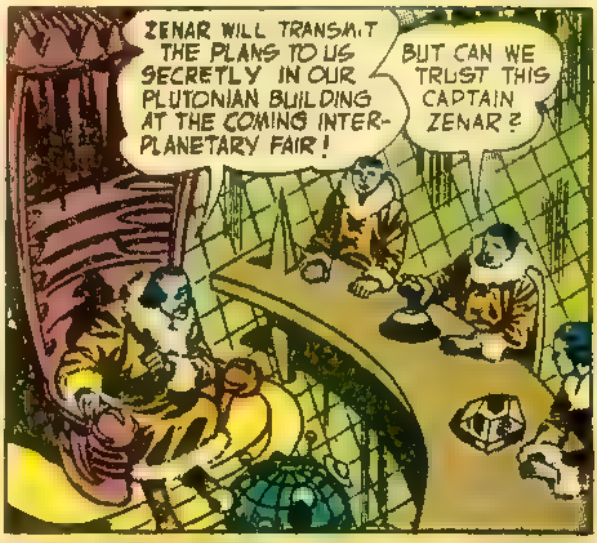
THE FIRST INTERPLANETARY FAIR!

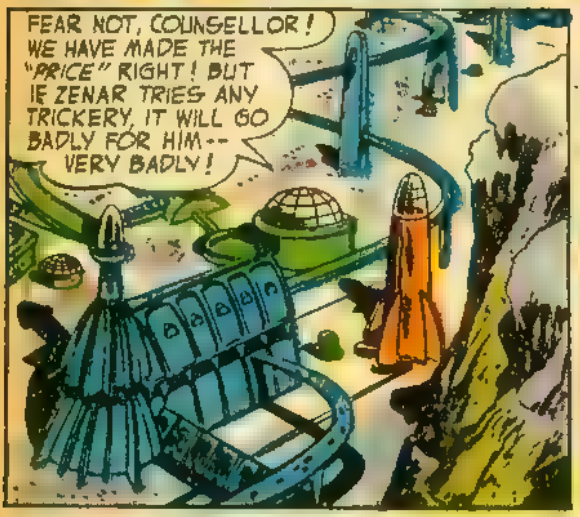
SOMEWHERE AMONG ALL THESE PEOPLE AT THE INTERPLANETARY FAIR IS THE ONE PERSON I MUST CONTACT! BUT WHO--WHERE--?
ON A HOLIDAY-THRONGED, FESTIVITY-CRAMMED ASTERO.D, HE HAD TO FIND ONE PERSON OUT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM NINE DIFFERENT PLANETS! BUT IF HE CONTACTED THE WRONG ONE, THE MISTAKE IN IDENTITY WOULD PLUNGE THE SOLAR SYSTEM .NTO AN ATOMIC WAR!

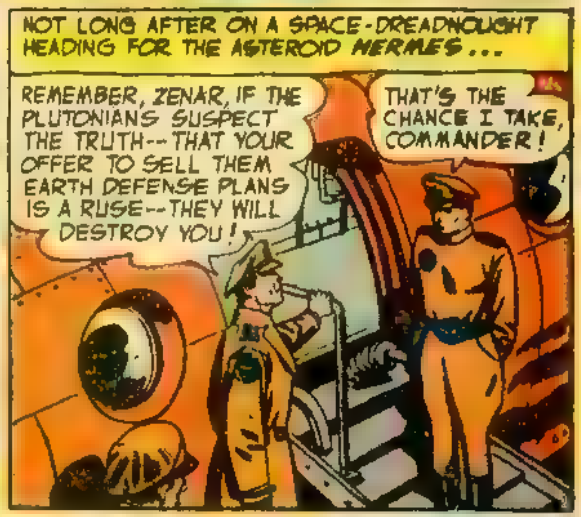

ON THE OUTERMOST RIM OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, WHIRLS THE PLANET PLUTO--PERPETUALLY SHROUDED IN ICE, AND PERPETUALLY WARLIKE BEHIND ITS CURTAIN OF COLD...
IN THIS YEAR OF 3000 A.D., PLUTO HAS CUT ITSELF OFF FROM THE OTHER CIVILIZED PLANETS AND RETREATED BEHIND ITS CURTAIN OF COLD! BUT NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THERE HAS BEEN A BREAK IN THIS WARLIKE, ISOLATIONIST POLICY...

IN HIS HEADQUARTERS, THE CHIEF MILITARY LEADER OF PLUTO EXPLAINS THE NEW MOVE TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL...
YES, WE HAVE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN THE EXHIBITION ON THE ASTEROID HERMES--THE FIRST INTERPLANETARY FAIR--BUT FOR OUR OWN REASONS!

WE HAVE MADE SECRET CONTACT WITH AN OFFICER IN THE EARTH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE--A CAPTAIN RY ZENAR, A VENUSIAN-BORN EARTHMAN--WHO IS WILLING TO SELL US THE DEFENSE PLANS FOR EARTH ...


ZENAR WILL TRANSMIT THE PLANS TO US SECRETLY IN OUR PLUTONIAN BUILDING AT THE COMING INTER-PLANETARY FAIR!
BUT CAN WE TRUST THIS CAPTAIN ZENAR?


FEAR NOT, COUNSELLOR! WE HAVE MADE THE "PRICE" RIGHT! BUT IF ZENAR TRIES ANY TRICKERY, IT WILL GO BADLY FOR HIM--VERY BADLY!


NOT LONG AFTER ON A SPACE-DREADNOUGHT HEADING FOR THE ASTEROID HERMES ...
REMEMBER, ZENAR, IF THE PLUTONIANS SUSPECT THE TRUTH--THAT YOUR OFFER TO SELL THEM EARTH DEFENSE PLANS IS A RUSE--THEY WILL DESTROY YOU!
THAT'S THE CHANCE I TAKE, COMMANDER!

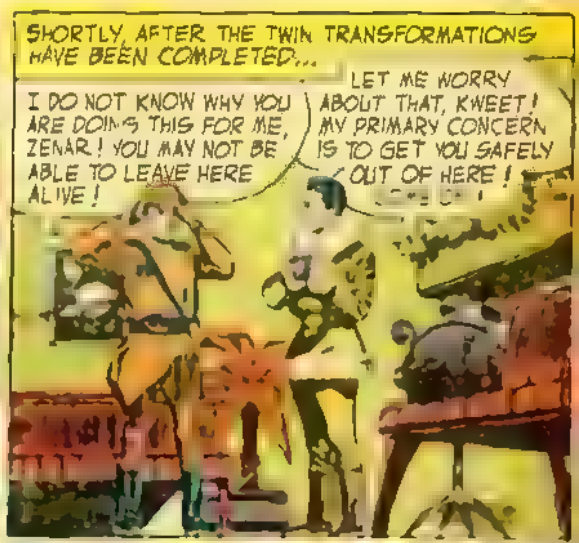
THE INDIVIDUAL YOU ARE TO CONTACT IN THE PLUTONIAN BUILDING--AND LEAD OUT TO SAFETY IF YOU CAN--IS KNOWN TO US ONLY AS KWEET--THE NAME HE USED IN THE RADIO MESSAGES OUR SECRET AGENTS PICKED UP...

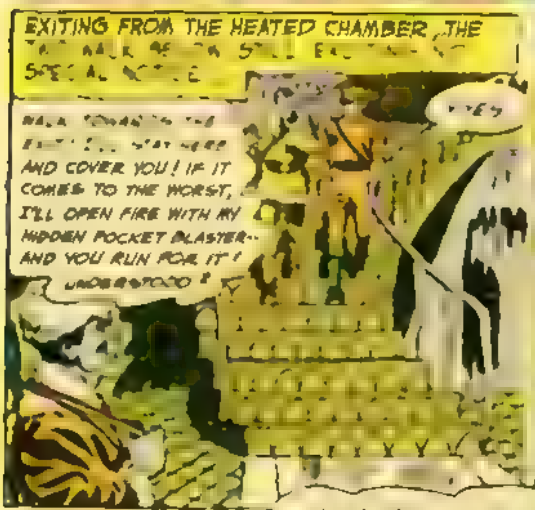
WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE REALLY IS OR WHAT POSITION--IF ANY--HE HOLDS IN THE PLUTONIAN GOVERNMENT! BUT HE HAS OFFERED TO BRING US THE PLUTONIAN WAR PLANS! ALL PLUTONIANS ARE WATCHED--AND HE MAY ALREADY BE UNDER SUSPICION! YOU HAVE A DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT, ZENAR...

LATER, ON THE MIDWAY OF THE GREAT FAIR, CAPTAIN ZENAR SETS OUT FOR HIS DESTINATION, THE PLUTONIAN EXHIBITION
REPRESENTATIVES FROM EVERY PLANET IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM! ALL THESE RACES HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE -- EXCEPT THE PLUTONIANS! AND THEY THREATEN THE PEACE OF ALL...
BUT IF I CAN SPIRIT 'KWEET' AWAY FROM THE PLUTONIANS -- HIS PRESENCE ON OUR SIDE WILL ACT TO PREVENT WAR! I MUST FIND HIM -- I MUST SUCCEED!
INSIDE THE PLUTONIAN EXHIBIT...
BRRR -- IT'S COLD IN HERE! I'D BETTER NOT WASTE ANY TIME! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I CAN GET INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE PLUTONIAN HIERARCHY -- ONE SURE WAY!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THE VISITOR HAS WHISPERED A FEW WORDS INTO THE EAR OF A GUIDE...
THE EARTH DEFENSE PLANS? YOU ARE CAPTAIN RY ZENAR? COME WITH ME, PLEASE!
I KNEW THAT WOULD GET PROMPT ACTION!
SHORTLY, IN A CONCEALED CHAMBER, BEHIND THE FACADE OF THE EXHIBIT...
THE EARTH DEFENSE PLANS ARE ON THIS MICROFILM...
LET ME HAVE THEM!
ALUE

AS THE FILM IS EXAMINED, THE EYES OF THE VISTOR SCAN THE ROOM...
ONE OF THESE PLUTONIAN BIGWIGS IN HERE MIGHT BE "KWEET"! BUT WHICH ONE?
THAT MILITARY ATTACHÉ-- SEATED AT THE ELECTRO-WRITER AND STEALING GLANCES AT ME! I WONDER--
WITH A FEW CASUAL STEPS, ZENAR REACHES THE SIDE OF THE OTHER AND...
KWEET! I'VE FOUND HIM--!
LISTEN-- I HAVE A PLAN TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE! BUT IT MEANS WE MUST BE ALONE TOGETHER FOR A FEW MOMENTS
KWEET
SWIFTLY, THE ELECTRO-WRITER TYPES A REPLY..
KWEET. GO TO THE HEATED CHAMBER-- FOR VISITORS--ON THIS FLOOR! WAIT THERE FOR ME..
SOON AFTER, WHILE THE EXAMINATION OF THE MICROFILM CONTINUES...
THIS IS THE RENDEZVOUS! I HOPE KWEET HURRIES! THEY'LL SOON DISCOVER THAT I'VE TRICKED THEM-- THAT THEY HAVEN'T THE REAL EARTH DEFENSE PLANS AT ALL!
A LITTLE WHILE LATER, ANOTHER FIGURE SLIPS INTO THE ROOM..
HURRY. WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?
WE TWO MUST CHANGE PLACES--EXCHANGE CLOTHES AND IDENTITIES! HERE, TAKE THIS VIAL, BREAK IT, AND RUB THE CONTENTS OVER YOUR FACE AND HANDS!

DOES AS HE IS BID
IT IS MAKING MY SKIN
YOURS!
AND THIS VIAL IS MAKING ME BLUE

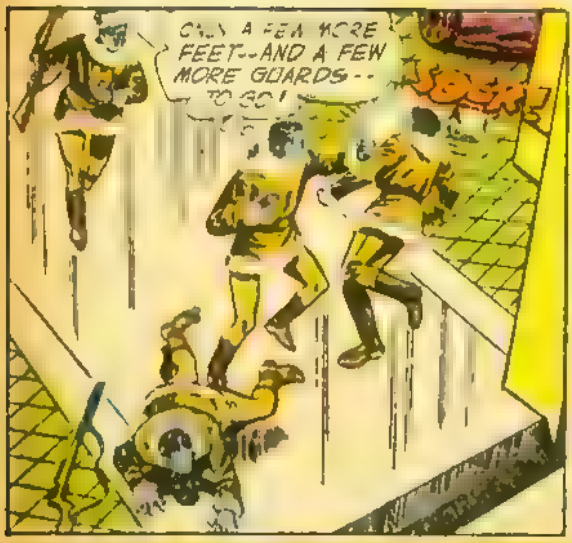

SHORTLY AFTER THE TWIN TRANSFORMATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED...
I DO NOT KNOW WHY YOU ARE DOING THIS FOR ME, ZENAR! YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE!
LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT, KWEET! MY PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO GET YOU SAFELY OUT OF HERE!

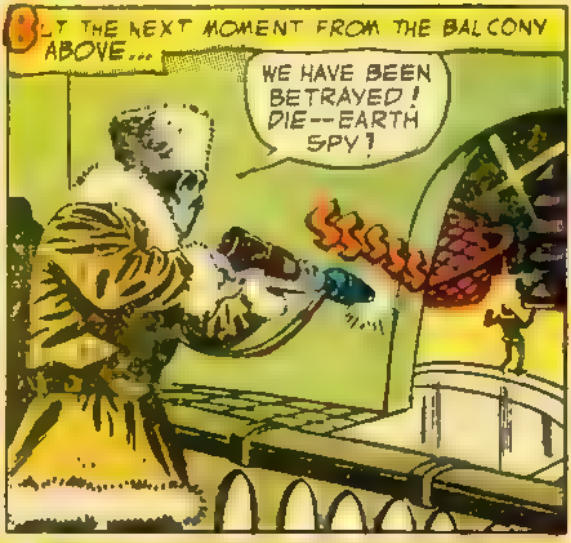

EXITING FROM THE HEATED CHAMBER, THE
SPECIAL NOTICE
AND COVER YOU! IF IT COMES TO THE WORST, I'LL OPEN FIRE WITH MY HIDDEN POCKET BLASTER-- AND YOU RUN FOR IT!
YES

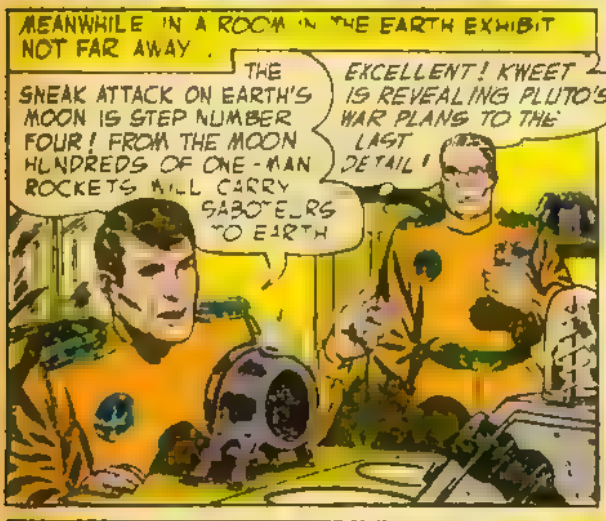
THERE HE GOES-- HE'S MAKING IT! IN ANOTHER MOMENT HE'LL BE OUT OF BLASTER

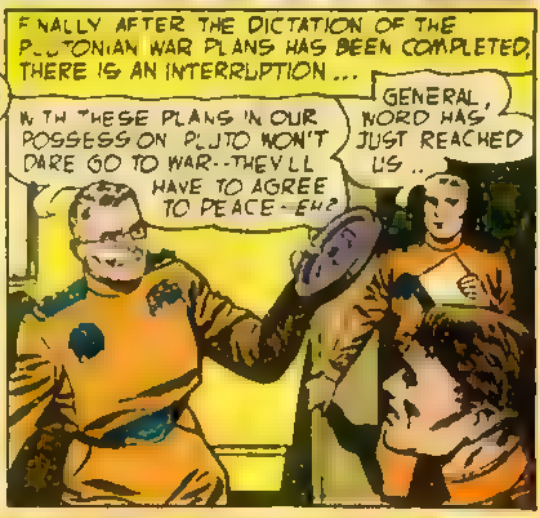
NOW IF I CAN GET OUT OF HERE--BEFORE THEY DISCOVER THEY'VE BEEN TRICKED...!
WAIT! NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THIS BUILDING EXCEPT BY SPECIAL PERMISSION! WHERE'S

IN REPLY, ZENAR STRIKES HARD AT THE GUARD'S CHIN...
FIGHT MY WAY OUT OF HERE NOW--FIGHT MY WAY TO FREEDOM!

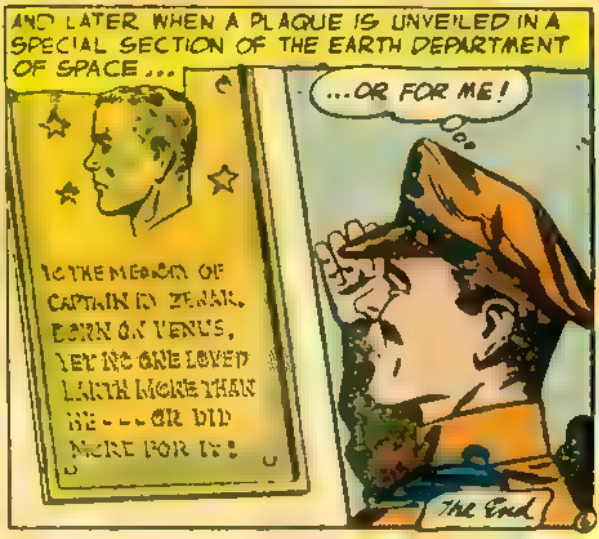

ONLY A FEW MORE FEET--AND A FEW MORE GUARDS--TO GO!


AT THE NEXT MOMENT FROM THE BALCONY ABOVE...
WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED! DIE--EARTH SPY!


MEANWHILE IN A ROOM IN THE EARTH EXHIBIT NOT FAR AWAY.
THE SNEAK ATTACK ON EARTH'S MOON IS STEP NUMBER FOUR! FROM THE MOON HUNDREDS OF ONE-MAN ROCKETS WILL CARRY SABOTEURS TO EARTH
EXCELLENT! KWEET IS REVEALING PLUTO'S WAR PLANS TO THE LAST DETAIL!


FINALLY AFTER THE DICTATION OF THE PLUTONIAN WAR PLANS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, THERE IS AN INTERRUPTION...
GENERAL, NORD HAS JUST REACHED US..
WITH THESE PLANS IN OUR POSSESSION PLUTO WON'T DARE GO TO WAR--THEY'LL HAVE TO AGREE TO PEACE--EH?

--THAT CAPTAIN ZENAR WAS KILLED IN AN--ER--INCIDENT IN THE PLUTONIAN EXHIBIT!
ZENAR--DEAD? HE FULFILLED HIS MISSION AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE!


AND LATER WHEN A PLAQUE IS UNVEILED IN A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE EARTH DEPARTMENT OF SPACE...
...OR FOR ME!
IN THE MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ZENAR, BORN ON VENUS, YET NO ONE LOVED EARTH MORE THAN HE--OR DID MORE FOR IT!
The End

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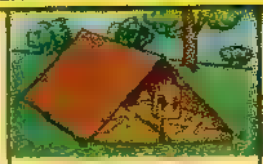

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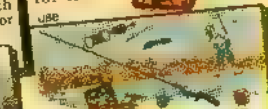

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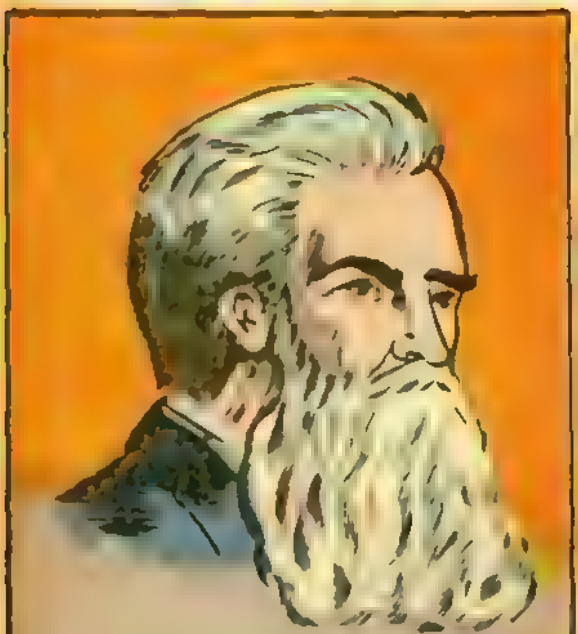
GIANTS OF THE TELESCOPE

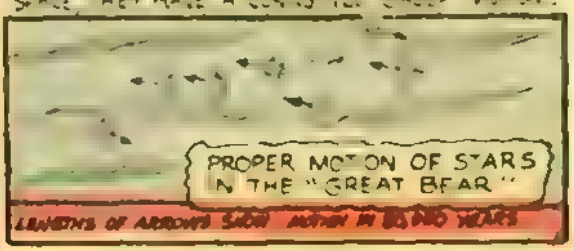


Sir WILLIAM HUGGINS
(1824-1910)

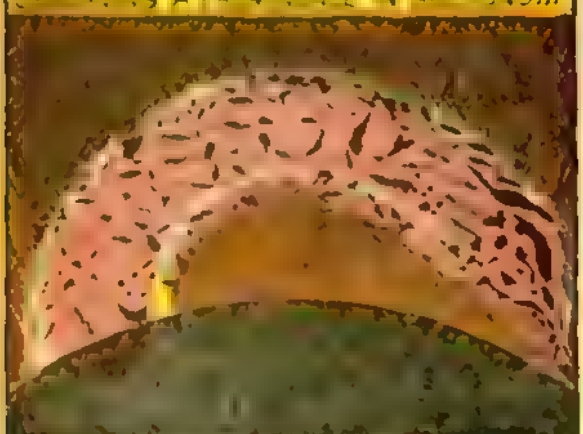
A PIONEER IN THE USE OF THE ***SPECTROSCOPE*** FOR ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS HUGGINS WAS THE FIRST TO OBTAIN A SPECTRUM OF A DIFFUSE NEBULA DURING THE ENSUING FOUR YEARS HE EXAMINED THE SPECTRA OF 70 MORE NEBULAE, DEMONSTRATING THE LUMINOUS GASEOUS NATURE OF PLANETARY AND REGULAR NEBULAE

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF A PLANETARY NEBULA

SUBJECTING THE ***GREAT BEAR CONSTELLATION*** TO SPECTROSCOPIC EXAMINATION SIR WILLIAM FOUND THAT 5 OF THE 7 STARS COMPRISING THE CONSTELLATION WERE MOVING AWAY FROM US IN THE SAME DIRECTION AND AT THE SAME RATE OF SPEED - PROVING THAT THE STARS FORM A CONNECTED MOVING GROUP THROUGH SPACE, AND THAT CONTRARY TO THE OLD THEORY THAT STARS MOVE AT RANDOM THROUGH SPACE, THEY HAVE A DEFINITE GROUP MOTION.



BY THE SAME BUT PREVIOUSLY UNTHOUGHT OF METHOD OF OPENING THE SLIT OF A SPECTROSCOPE THIS BRITISH ASTRONOMER WITNESSED THE FIRST COMPLETE VIEW OF A SOLAR PROMINENCE - AN IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE FORMER WAY OF OBSERVING A PROMINENCE IN SECTIONS...



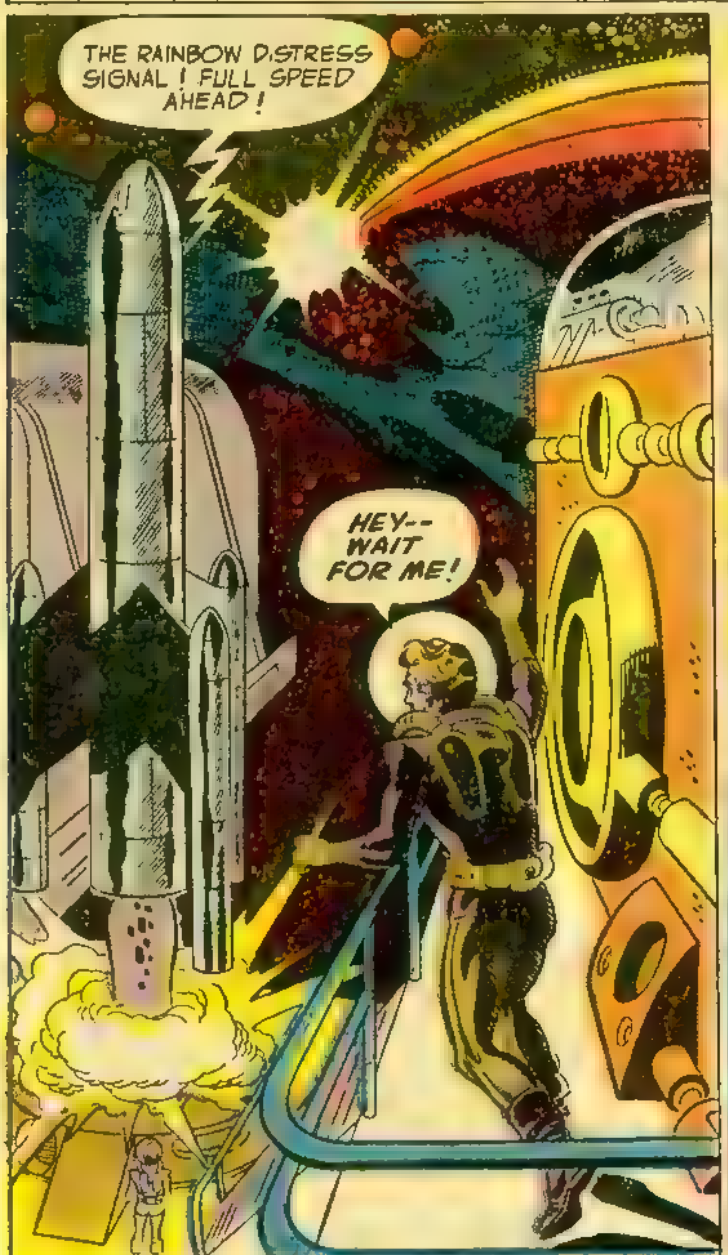
...A MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF A SOLAR PROMINENCE.

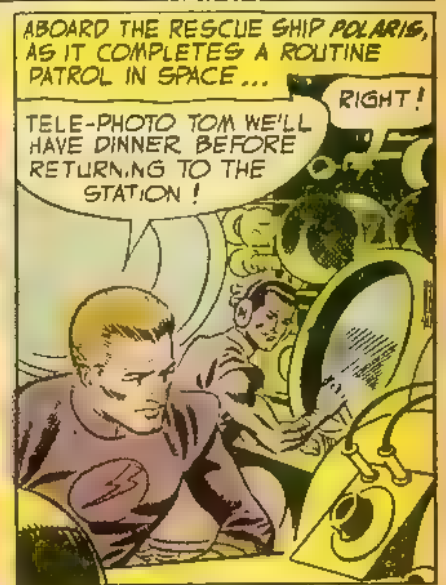
ON MAY 18 '866, HE MADE THE FIRST SPECTROSCOPIC EXAMINATION OF A TEMPORARY STAR -- ***NOVA CORONAE*** -- AND DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED WITH BLAZING HYDROGEN.

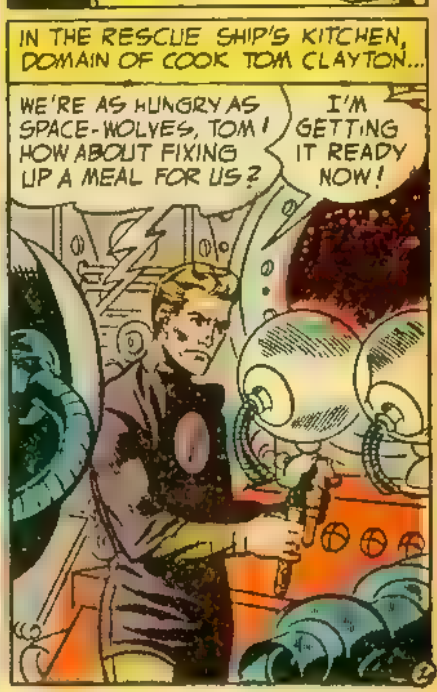
ARROW POINTS TO NOVA CORONAE -- AFTER IT HAD INCREASED 1500 TIMES IN BRIGHTNESS. WHITE LINES CONNECT THE MAJOR STARS IN THE "NORTHERN CROWN" CONSTELLATION.

RESCUE SQUAD OF TOMORROW!

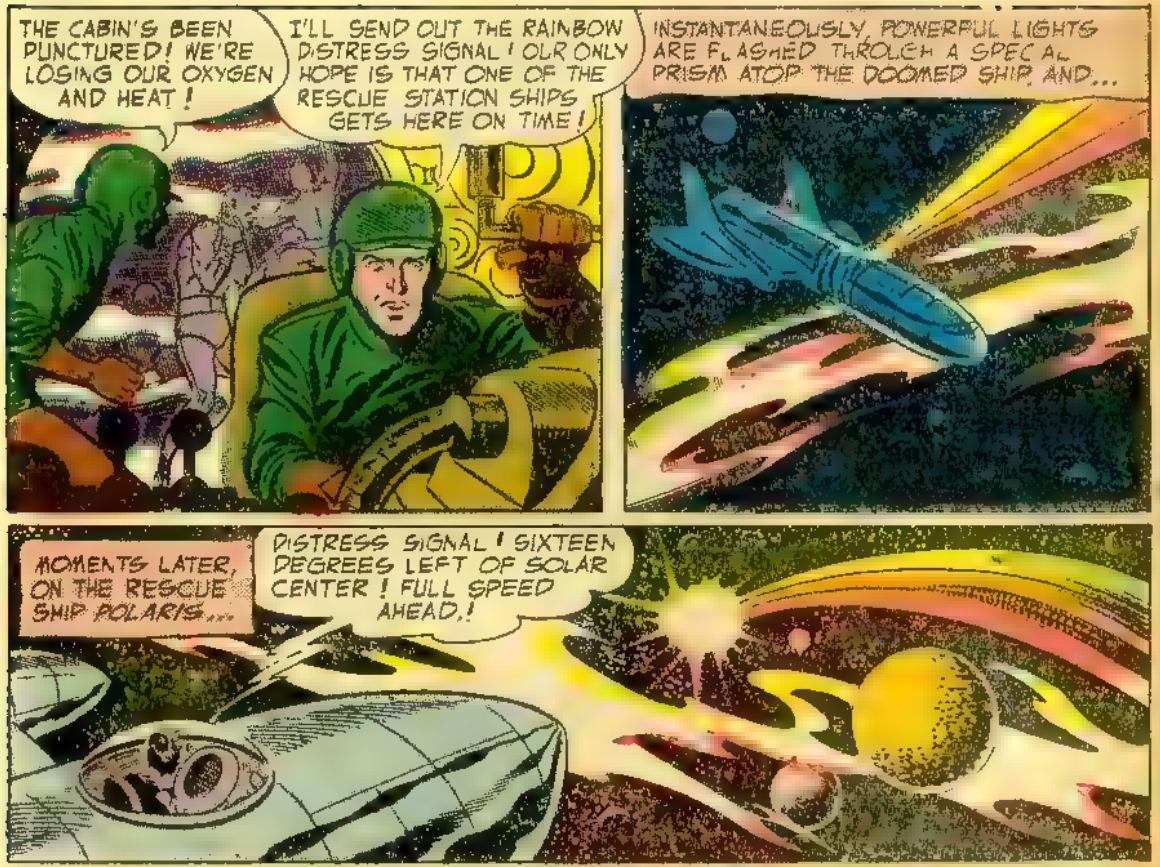
TOM CLAYTON DREAMED AND HOPED FOR THE DAY HE WOULD BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE INTREPID TEAM OF ADVENTURERS WHO SAFEGUARD THE SPACEWAYS! TO REACH HIS GOAL, TOM HAD A LONG AND DIFFICULT CLIMB UP THE LADDER--BUT SO FAR HE HAD REACHED ONLY THE BOTTOM RUNG--AS COOK ABOARD THE RESCUE SHIP POLARIS!

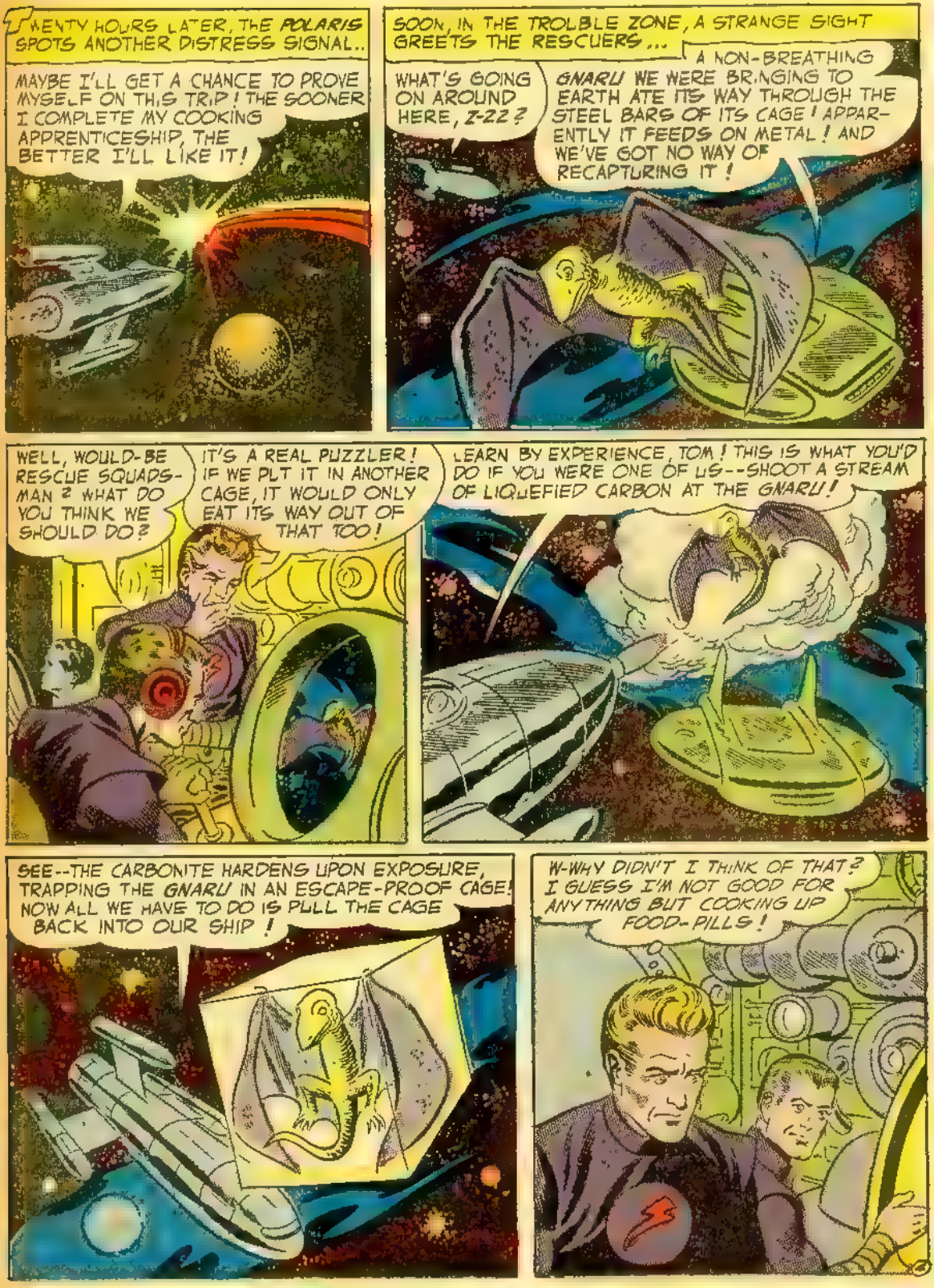


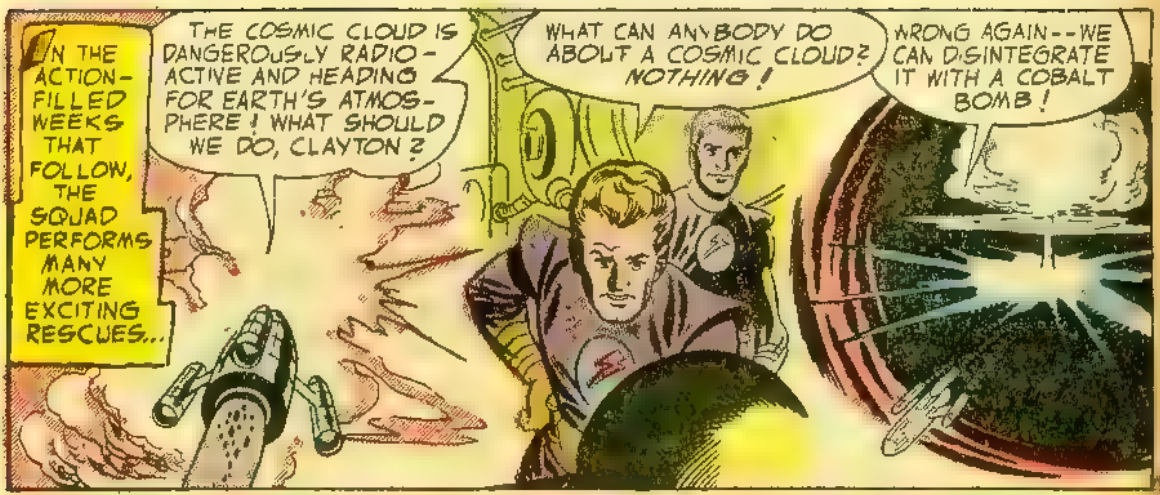

ABOARD THE RESCUE SHIP POLARIS, AS IT COMPLETES A ROUTINE PATROL IN SPACE...
TELE-PHOTO TOM WE'LL HAVE DINNER BEFORE RETURNING TO THE STATION!
RIGHT!

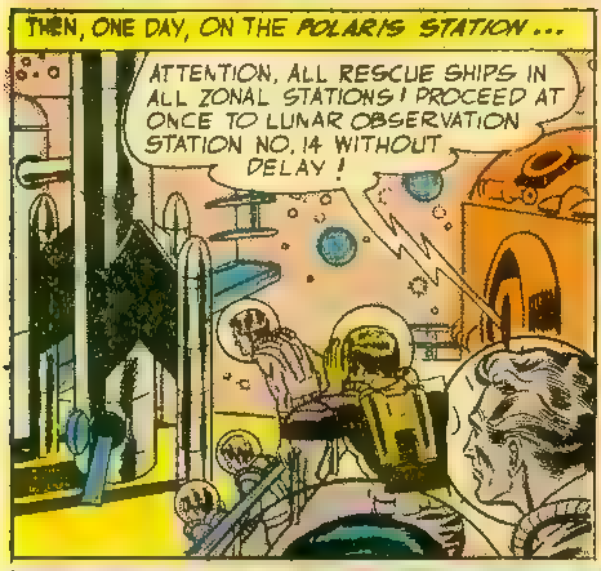

IN THE RESCUE SHIP'S KITCHEN, DOMAIN OF COOK TOM CLAYTON...
WE'RE AS HUNGRY AS SPACE-WOLVES, TOM! HOW ABOUT FIXING UP A MEAL FOR US?
I'M GETTING IT READY NOW!

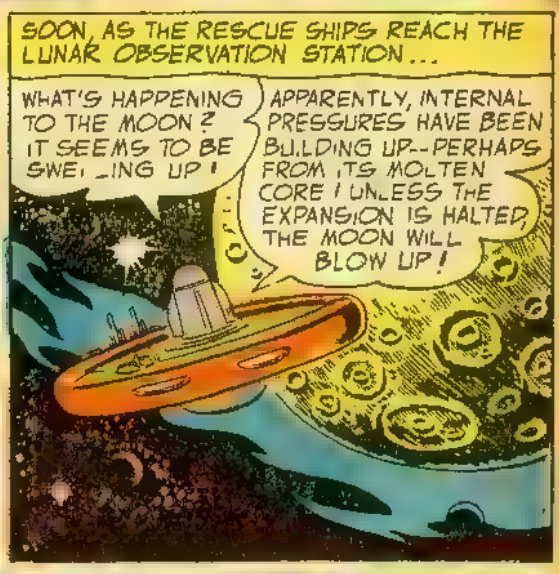
A CHEMICAL MIXTURE OF CONCENTRATED NUTRIENTS IS POURED INTO THE SOLIDIFIER AND SOON...
THEY CALL THIS COOKING! I WONDER WHAT IT WAS LIKE IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN PEOPLE COOKED REAL FOOD IN POTS AND PANS AND PRESSURE-COOKERS?
DELICIOUS! ONE PILL AND I'M STUFFED!
GLAD YOU LIKE IT--BUT WHEN AM I GOING TO BE GRADUATED FROM THAT CHEMICAL KITCHEN AND GIVEN THE CHANCE TO SEE SOME REAL ACTION AS A RESCUE SQUADSMAN?
RELAX, CLAYTON--EVERY RECRUIT MUST FIRST SERVE HIS APPRENTICESHIP IN THE KITCHEN!
YOU CALL THAT A KITCHEN? I CALL IT A PILL-PLANT!
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR OFF, AN EXCURSION SPACE-SHIP HEADS EARTHWARD AFTER A SUMMER TOUR OF THE NEIGHBORING PLANETS
IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL VACATION!
YES--NEXT SUMMER I'M GOING TO TAKE THE SATURN EXCURSION!
IN THE PILOTS' CABIN OF THE EXCURSION CRAFT
METEOR STORM--COMING RIGHT AT US!
TRY TO CLIMB ABOVE IT!
BUT IN THE NEXT TERRIFYING MOMENT, A METEOR COLLIDES WITH THE SHIP...

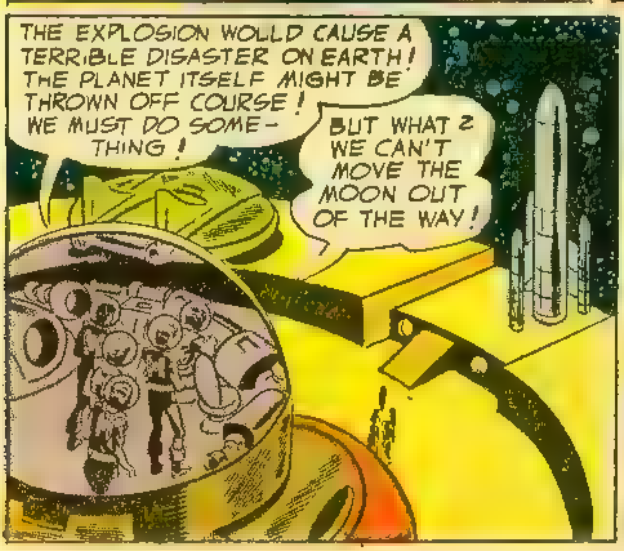

THE CABIN'S BEEN PUNCTURED! WE'RE LOSING OUR OXYGEN AND HEAT!
I'LL SEND OUT THE RAINBOW DISTRESS SIGNAL! OUR ONLY HOPE IS THAT ONE OF THE RESCUE STATION SHIPS GETS HERE ON TIME!
INSTANTANEOUSLY, POWERFUL LIGHTS ARE FLASHED THROUGH A SPECIAL PRISM ATOP THE DOOMED SHIP, AND...
MOMENTS LATER, ON THE RESCUE SHIP POLARIS...
DISTRESS SIGNAL! SIXTEEN DEGREES LEFT OF SOLAR CENTER! FULL SPEED AHEAD!
SHORTLY, AS THE RESCUE SQUADSMEN BOARD THE STRICKEN SHIP...
WELL, CLAYTON, LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE QUALIFIED TO BECOME A SQUADSMAN! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THIS SITUATION?
THE PASSENGERS ARE FROZEN STIFF! I--I DON'T KNOW--I'M ONLY A COOK!
NOTHING TO IT, TOM! THIS IS AN ELECTRONIC RE-VIVIFIER! IT "UNFREEZES" THE BRAIN AND HEART, SO THAT THE FROZEN VICTIMS COME BACK TO LIFE!
LATER, AFTER THE CREW AND PASSENGERS HAVE ALL BEEN REVIVED...
YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT, CLAYTON, THAT YOU'RE NOT READY TO BECOME A SQUADSMAN!
I'LL PROVE I AM YET! AFTER ALL, NO ONE EVER TOLD ME ABOUT THAT RE-VIV.FIER MACHINE!


TWENTY HOURS LATER, THE POLARIS SPOTS ANOTHER DISTRESS SIGNAL..
MAYBE I'LL GET A CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF ON THIS TRIP! THE SOONER I COMPLETE MY COOKING APPRENTICESHIP, THE BETTER I'LL LIKE IT!
SOON, IN THE TROUBLE ZONE, A STRANGE SIGHT GREETS THE RESCUERS...
WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE, Z-22?
A NON-BREATHING GNARU WE WERE BRINGING TO EARTH ATE ITS WAY THROUGH THE STEEL BARS OF ITS CAGE! APPARENTLY IT FEEDS ON METAL! AND WE'VE GOT NO WAY OF RECAPTURING IT!
WELL, WOULD-BE RESCUE SQUADSMAN 2 WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?
IT'S A REAL PUZZLER! IF WE PLT IT IN ANOTHER CAGE, IT WOULD ONLY EAT ITS WAY OUT OF THAT TOO!
LEARN BY EXPERIENCE, TOM! THIS IS WHAT YOU'D DO IF YOU WERE ONE OF US--SHOOT A STREAM OF LIQUEFIED CARBON AT THE GNARU!
SEE--THE CARBONITE HARDENS UPON EXPOSURE, TRAPPING THE GNARU IN AN ESCAPE-PROOF CAGE! NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PULL THE CAGE BACK INTO OUR SHIP!
W-WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT? I GUESS I'M NOT GOOD FOR ANYTHING BUT COOKING UP FOOD-PILLS!


IN THE ACTION-FILLED WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, THE SQUAD PERFORMS MANY MORE EXCITING RESCUES...
THE COSMIC CLOUD IS DANGEROUSLY RADIO-ACTIVE AND HEADING FOR EARTH'S ATMOS-PHERE! WHAT SHOULD WE DO, CLAYTON?
WHAT CAN ANYBODY DO ABOUT A COSMIC CLOUD? NOTHING!
WRONG AGAIN--WE CAN DISINTEGRATE IT WITH A COBALT BOMB!


THEN, ONE DAY, ON THE POLARIS STATION...
ATTENTION, ALL RESCUE SHIPS IN ALL ZONAL STATIONS! PROCEED AT ONCE TO LUNAR OBSERVATION STATION NO. 14 WITHOUT DELAY!

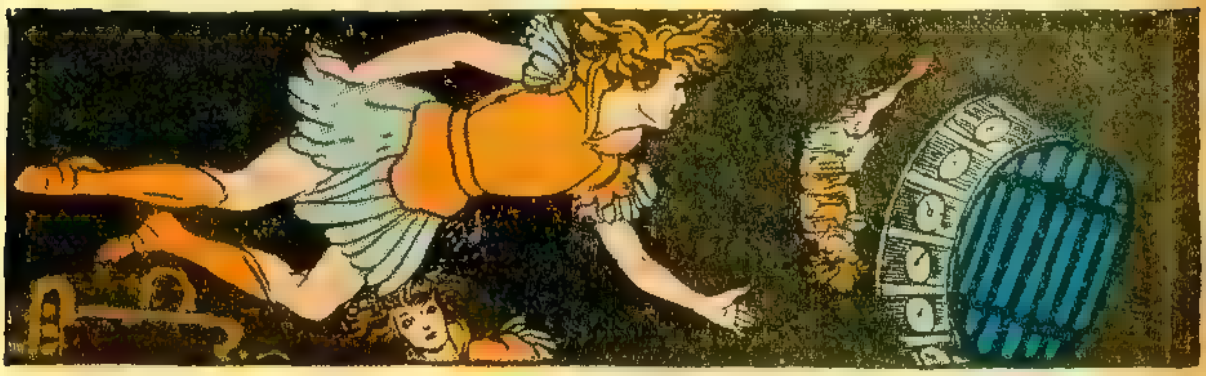

SOON, AS THE RESCUE SHIPS REACH THE LUNAR OBSERVATION STATION...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE MOON? IT SEEMS TO BE SWE_ING UP!
APPARENTLY, INTERNAL PRESSURES HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP--PERHAPS FROM ITS MOLTEN CORE! UNLESS THE EXPANSION IS HALTED, THE MOON WILL BLOW UP!


THE EXPLOSION WOULD CAUSE A TERRIBLE DISASTER ON EARTH! THE PLANET ITSELF MIGHT BE THROWN OFF COURSE! WE MUST DO SOME-THING!
BUT WHAT? WE CAN'T MOVE THE MOON OUT OF THE WAY!

HMM... HE SAID INTERNAL PRESSURES WERE BUILDING UP... REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING!

SIRS--I--I THINK I KNOW HOW TO KEEP THE MOON FROM EXPLODING!
TALK FAST, CLAYTON--THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
SOON, UNDER TOM'S DIRECTION, VAST AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT ARE FLOWN TO THE STRICKEN SATELLITE...
DIG--DIG--DIG!
AS CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT A FRANTIC PACE..
OUR INSTRUMENTS INDICATE THAT THE MOON CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF THAT PRESSURE!
THE MOON CAN'T BLOW UP ON ME NOW! IT'S GOT TO HOLD OFF FOR ONE MORE HOUR!
AN HOUR LATER, THE INTERNAL PRESSURES SHOOT TO THE SURFACE...
YOUR PLAN IS WORKING, TOM! THE PRESSURES ARE BEING RELEASED THROUGH THOSE ESCAPE VALVES!
I GOT THE IDEA WHEN I RECALLED ONE OF THE COOKING INSTRUMENTS OUR ANCESTORS USED TO HAVE--A PRESSURE-COOKER!
SOON AFTER, AS RESCUE SHIP POLARIS FLIES A ROUTINE PATROL...
I JUST GOT WORD FROM HEADQUARTERS--CLAYTON'S BEEN PROMOTED TO ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE RESCUE SQUAD!
HE'S IN THE KITCHEN, MAKING UP A BATCH OF FOOD PILLS! LET'S GO IN AND TELL HIM!
WE'VE GOT GREAT NEWS FOR YOU, TOM!
IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL I FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIX THIS PILL-MAKER! IT'S RUNNING WILD!
The End

WONDERS of SPACE



The "Ups" and "Downs" of Space

THE fact that we will weigh absolutely nothing when we travel through space is going to involve us in situations in which we earthbound humans have had no previous experience—novel situations in eating, drinking, walking, and orientation.

Imagine yourself floating without weight in the center of the space-ship's cabin. Through the window you have a breath-taking view of the planet earth, from which you so recently departed. In what direction do you perceive the earth? Is it below you, above you, or to one side?

Apparently the answer depends on whether the window is below your feet, above your head, or to the side of your suspended body. In reality, there is no need to survey this situation with respect to "up" and "down." If the earth is seen in the direction of your feet, you might just as well imagine yourself lying down, which will immediately shift the earth into the "horizontal" plane. The horizontal plane, of course, exists only in your mind; there is no physical agent to mark any distinguishable direction.

Through a little mental effort you can shift the earth around through all directions of space simply by suggesting to yourself that your relative position is in the desired plane. Your only indication of direction will lie in the asymmetry of your body. If you have a preference for seeing things "above" you will naturally assume a position in which you will turn your head "upward" to see them.

This is comparable to the familiar optical illusion drawings you have frequently seen in puzzle books—those in which simple line drawings of regularly stacked-up boxes, or the like, are depicted. There are two ways of looking at the boxes; they either stand up (forming stairs) or hang down like an overhanging piece of masonry. Through an easy mental effort of self-suggestion we can flip the boxes over from one position to the other.

Fortunately, many visual aides will be available inside the space-ship's cabin to help us orient ourselves. One of the walls of the cabin will be declared "floor," and all pieces of equipment such as strapping devices, tables and other furniture will further help distinguish it as the "floor" we are accustomed to on earth. In this way we will be afforded a distinguishing plane of visual reference, and we will merely learn to stick to it mentally at all times. As a further aid, all crew members will be instructed to station themselves at right angles to the floor, head up, so that

their fellow travelers will be afforded a normal appearance of the human face.

Mystery Colors of Mars

Conspicuous for its predominant red color and brilliance, Mars has become popularly known as the "red planet." However, the accurate determination of the colors observable on Mars is not simple as one might imagine offhand. One of the difficulties confronting astronomical observers lies in the fact that the pigments used in painting here on earth are illuminated by a reddish artificial light, to which our eyes have become accustomed, while Mars is always viewed in direct sunlight. This condition particularly affects the green and blue colors, and to a somewhat lesser extent the reds and yellows.

Various color experiments have been made in connection with Mars, including daytime observations, in which the colors seen on the planet were matched with suitable earth substances in subdued natural daylight. The conclusions reached were that the Martian red areas were really red, of a hue known as dragon's blood, intermediate between an orange and a deep-red brick. This closely paralleled the color texture prevalent in the Painted Desert of Arizona.

In the dark areas of Mars, three distinguishing shades of green have been determined; a dirty brownish-green, a bright grassy-green, and a strong bluish-green—the latter color being quite prominent in *Syrtis Major*, a dark triangular patch of land just north of the equator, which most photographs of Mars clearly show. In addition, a warm coffee color has been observed around the melting snow caps at both polar ends of Mars.

At first, the warm coffee color was regarded as an optical illusion due to the sharp contrast with the snow, but red and infra-red photographs of Mars definitely show this darkening of the ground at the rim of the polar cap, although most of the matter's brilliance is eliminated. At the same time equally white clouds do not appear surrounded by a dark border. Thus there can be no serious doubt that the "warm coffee" color is present.

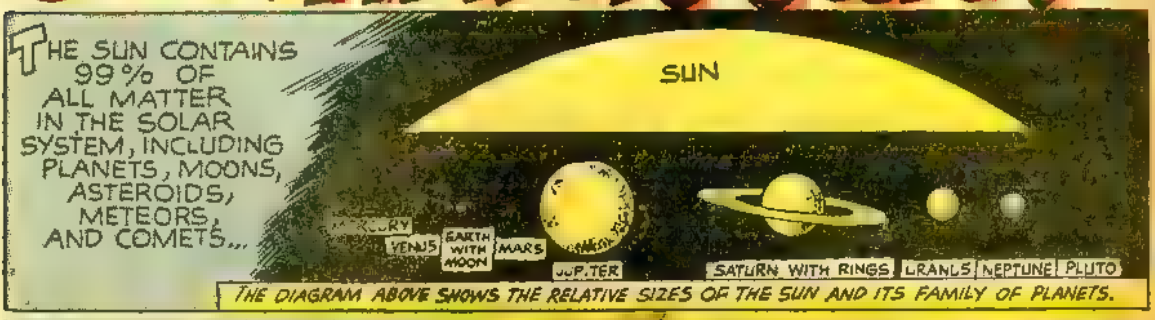
The "dragon's blood" color detected by some astronomers has not met with universal agreement among Martian planet-scanners. The conflict arises from the fact that the "dragon's blood" color area reflects light in much the same way as brown felsite, which bears no color resemblance at all to the Painted Desert. This might have been anticipated from the start, for if the atmosphere of Mars strongly scatters and absorbs the short wave-lengths, any object viewed through it will naturally appear reddened; so that at least some of Mars' color-beauty is atmospheric window-dressing. In all likelihood, to a Martian ground observer his "red" areas resemble the coloring of earth's Highland heaths, which in fine hazy weather takes on a rosewood tint.

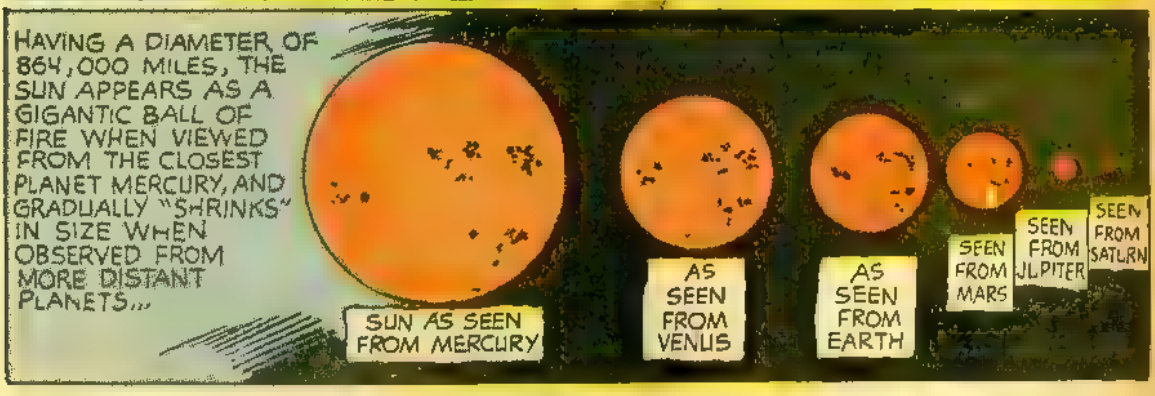
One rebel French astronomer has contested the results obtained by American color-observations of Mars. In sharp contrast he has assigned colors to the red areas which he describes as predominantly yellow, sometimes even yellow lemon, and orange, but only rarely red.

Some years ago, when the Martian spring was under way, this French astronomer, Antoniadi, saw a dark band form around the south polar cap and extend rapidly northwards in all directions. Not only the green but also some of the gray and blue areas began to assume the color of chocolate brown, lilac or beautiful carmine hue, while other closely similar regions seemed unaffected.

Brown colorings have also been seen to appear in similar areas at other seasons, though never for long, and Antoniadi observed there red and yellow tints, generally comparable to our own autumn foliage.

Our AMAZING Sun!




HAVING A DIAMETER OF 864,000 MILES, THE SUN APPEARS AS A GIGANTIC BALL OF FIRE WHEN VIEWED FROM THE CLOSEST PLANET MERCURY, AND GRADUALLY "SHRINKS" IN SIZE WHEN OBSERVED FROM MORE DISTANT PLANETS...
SUN AS SEEN FROM MERCURY
AS SEEN FROM VENUS
AS SEEN FROM EARTH
SEEN FROM MARS
SEEN FROM JUPITER
SEEN FROM SATURN

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The EXPLOSIVE MAN!

AS ACE INVESTIGATOR FOR INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC., BERT BRANDON HAS WON HIS REPUTATION BY THE SKILLFUL MANNER IN WHICH HE HAS ALWAYS FERRETED OUT EVIL-DOERS WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DEFRAUD HIS COMPANY! WHEN A SERIES OF EXPLOSIVE DISASTERS SUDDENLY STRIKES I.I.I., BERT ONCE AGAIN FINDS THE MYSTERIOUS CULPRIT--WHICH TO THE INVESTIGATOR'S UTTER ASTONISHMENT TURNS OUT TO BE--- BERT BRANDON HIMSELF!

BERT BRANDON, GET AWAY FROM THIS SPACE-PORT BEFORE YOU CAUSE AN ACCIDENT--

YULP!! TOO LATE! THE CARGO SHIP IS BLOWING UP!

SPACE PORT

SPACEGRAM

WM. J. EMORY, INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC., CAPITOL CITY, EARTH.

DEAR BOSS:

WHEN YOU SUMMONED ME TO YOUR OFFICE THE OTHER DAY, I FIGURED THAT YOU WERE FLOUNDERING AROUND IN TROUBLED WATERS AND THAT ONLY BERT BRANDON--AS USUAL--COULD PULL YOU OUT...

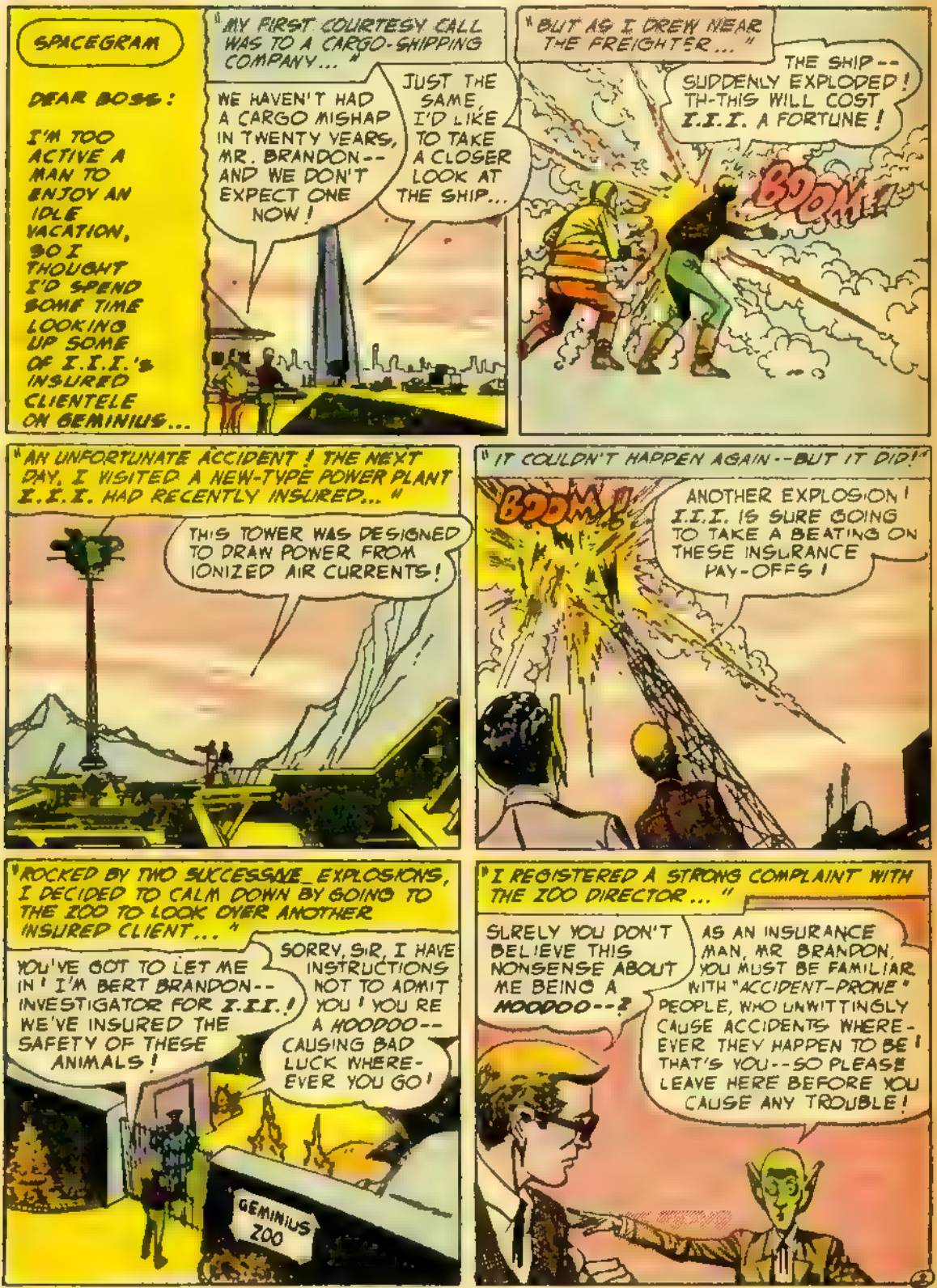
"...BUT TO MY CONSTERNATION, ALL WAS PEACEFUL AND QUIET ON THE I.I.I. FRONT..."

--AND SINCE I HAVE NO IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT WORTHY OF YOUR EXTRAORDINARY TALENTS, BERT, I'M OFFERING YOU A VACATION TRIP TO GEMINIUS--ALL EXPENSES PAID!

I'LL TAKE IT! AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY GETTING WHAT I DESERVE!

"BEFORE LEAVING FOR GEMINIUS, I HAD A PRESCRIPTION FILLED FOR NEW GLASSES..."

HERE ARE YOUR SPECTACLES, MR. BRANDON! HAVE A NICE VACATION ON GEMINIUS!


SPACEGRAM
DEAR BOSS:
I'M TOO ACTIVE A MAN TO ENJOY AN IDLE VACATION, SO I THOUGHT I'D SPEND SOME TIME LOOKING UP SOME OF I.I.I.'S INSURED CLIENTELE ON GEMINIUS...
"MY FIRST COURTESY CALL WAS TO A CARGO-SHIPPING COMPANY..."
WE HAVEN'T HAD A CARGO MISHAP IN TWENTY YEARS, MR. BRANDON--AND WE DON'T EXPECT ONE NOW!
JUST THE SAME, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SHIP...
"BUT AS I DREW NEAR THE FREIGHTER..."
THE SHIP--SUDDENLY EXPLODED! TH-THIS WILL COST I.I.I. A FORTUNE!
BOOM!!
"AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT! THE NEXT DAY, I VISITED A NEW-TYPE POWER PLANT I.I.I. HAD RECENTLY INSURED..."
THIS TOWER WAS DESIGNED TO DRAW POWER FROM IONIZED AIR CURRENTS!
"IT COULDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN--BUT IT DID!"
BOOM!!
ANOTHER EXPLOSION! I.I.I. IS SURE GOING TO TAKE A BEATING ON THESE INSURANCE PAY-OFFS!
"ROCKED BY TWO SUCCESSIVE EXPLOSIONS, I DECIDED TO CALM DOWN BY GOING TO THE ZOO TO LOOK OVER ANOTHER INSURED CLIENT..."
YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME IN! I'M BERT BRANDON--INVESTIGATOR FOR I.I.I.! WE'VE INSURED THE SAFETY OF THESE ANIMALS!
SORRY, SIR, I HAVE INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO ADMIT YOU! YOU RE A HOODOO--CAUSING BAD LUCK WHEREEVER YOU GO!
GEMINIUS ZOO
"I REGISTERED A STRONG COMPLAINT WITH THE ZOO DIRECTOR..."
SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS NONSENSE ABOUT ME BEING A HOODOO--?
AS AN INSURANCE MAN, MR BRANDON, YOU MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH "ACCIDENT-PRONE" PEOPLE, WHO UNWITTINGLY CAUSE ACCIDENTS WHEREEVER THEY HAPPEN TO BE! THAT'S YOU--SO PLEASE LEAVE HERE BEFORE YOU CAUSE ANY TROUBLE!

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

NO ONE CAN CALL ME ACCIDENT-PRONE AND GET AWAY WITH IT! I DETERMINED TO PROVE TO EVERY-ONE--AND MYSELF--I WAS NO HOOOOO...

"SO THAT NIGHT, I SNEAKED INTO THE ZOO"

"SO FAR, SO GOOD! I'M INSIDE THE ZOO--AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED!

"ALAS! I SPOKE TOO SOON!"

THE BARS OF THE ANIMAL CAGES ARE FLYING APART--AND THE ANIMALS ARE GETTING AWAY! HELP! **HELP!!**

"FORTUNATELY ASSISTANCE CAME SWIFTLY IN REPLY TO MY SHOUTS AND THE ANIMALS WERE ALL ROUNDED UP..."

I WARNED YOU BRANDON--GET OUT AND STAY OUT!

"AS I HEADED BACK TO MY HOTEL, THE ONE THOUGHT THAT COMFORTED MY TROUBLED MIND WAS YOUR COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN MY INNOCENCE"

SPACEGRAM FOR YOU, MR. BRANDON--FROM EARTH!

AH! A MESSAGE FROM EMORY--ABSOLVING ME FROM ALL BLAME FOR THESE ACCIDENTS!

"CONFIDENTLY I OPENED THE SPACEGRAM..."

SPACEGRAM

BERT BRANDON, GEMINIUS HOTEL, GEMINIUS, ANDROMEDA.

YOU ARE FIRED! REPEAT--FIRED!

W.J EMORY

SPACEGRAM

DEAR EMORY:

YOU'LL NOTICE I'M NOT CALLING YOU "BOSS" ANY MORE -- BUT THAT'S NO REASON I CAN'T KEEP YOU INFORMED OF MY LATEST TROUBLES! I TRIED TO GET PASSAGE ON A SPACE LINER --

BEAT IT, BRANDON! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO -- BLOW UP THE SHIP?

"MY FUNDS WERE RUNNING LOW, SO I HAD TO GET A JOB! BUT EVERYWHERE I APPLIED, IT WAS THE SAME STORY, UNTIL FINALLY I TRIED A SUPERMARKET..."

SURE WE NEED HELP -- IF YOU DON'T MIND WORKING FOR SMALL PAY! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

BERT BRA--UH! BERT BRAFFLE

IF I TELL HIM MY RIGHT NAME, I'LL BE FIRED BEFORE I START!

"MY EVASION WORKED -- AND SO DID I, UNTIL AN HOUR LATER..."

THOSE VENUSIAN WORPLEBERRIES JUST CAME IN, BRAFFLE! STORE THEM IN THE REFRIGERATOR!

YES, SIR!

"ONCE AGAIN CAME THAT FAMILIAR SOUND OF DISASTER..."

OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!

BOOM!

"THEN CAME AN EVEN MORE HORRIBLE EXPLOSION -- FROM THE STORE-MANAGER'S LIPS..."

NOW I RECOGNIZE YOU -- BERT BRANDON, THE HOODOO! GET OUT -- FAST!

MR. THREEP -- TAKE A LOOK AT THIS! WE FOUND IT IN THE WRECKAGE... IT LOOKS LIKE PART OF A BOMB!

"I FINALLY WENT TO THE DOOR AND LEFT MY SPECTACLES WHERE SHARKED AND LATER, WHEN I CAME THEM OVER IN MY HOTEL ROOM"

WHA--? THESE FRAMES! THEY'RE HOLLOW -- AND LOADED WITH ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT!

SPACEGRAM

DEAR EMORY:

MY BROKEN GLASSES MADE EVERYTHING CLEAR! A VIBRATION TRANSMITTER INSIDE MY FRAMES HAD DETONATED SECRETLY PLANTED DEVICES IN THE CARGO SHIP, THE WORPLEBERRIES, THE POWER TOWER, THE ANIMAL CAGES! BUT WHO WOULD PROFIT FROM THESE DISASTERS..?"

"I FOUND MY ANSWER IN THE FILES OF THE GEMINIUS OFFICE OF I.I.I.!"

EVERY ONE OF THE EXPLODED PLACES WAS INSURED BY A MAN NAMED NILES KRONOS!

"MY NEXT STOP WAS AT THE GEMINIUS POLICE HEADQUARTERS..."

THIS IS NILES KRONOS! HE'S A FINANCIER, ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT HE'S MIXED UP IN A NUMBER OF SHADY DEALS HERE ON GEMINIUS!

WHY, HE'S THE SAME ONE WHO HANDED ME MY GLASSES BACK ON EARTH!

"THE TRAIL WAS GETTING HOT NOW! I WENT FROM ONE SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY TO ANOTHER UNTIL..."

YES, I RECOGNIZE THESE SPECTACLE FRAMES--WE MADE THEM UP FOR A MAN FITTING THE DESCRIPTION YOU GAVE US! WE PUT TINY ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTERS INSIDE THEM--

THANKS--YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP! CAN YOU FIX MY GLASSES--JUST THE WAY YOU DID BEFORE?

"I RETURNED TO THE POLICE AND DID SOME FAST TALKING! AS A RESULT, I WENT TO KRONOS' APARTMENT WITH A POLICE ESCORT AND A SEARCH WARRANT..."

KRONOS IS OUT! NOW TO SEARCH FOR THE EVIDENCE WHICH WILL CLEAR ME WITH I.I.I.--AND PUT KRONOS IN JAIL!

"WE TOOK HIS APARTMENT APART, AND THEN PUT IT TOGETHER AGAIN, BUT NOT BEFORE WE MADE SOME VERY INTERESTING FINDS.."

THE VIBRATION TRANSMITTER IN MY SPECTACLE FRAMES SET OFF THESE BOMBS WHICH WERE PLANTED AT EACH OF THE INSURED PLACES! AND KRONOS OWNS A GUN! HMMM... I'M BEGINNING TO GET AN IDEA!

"I MOVED SWIFTLY THEN! I 'FIXED' KRONOS' GUN, GOT MY GLASSES BACK, AND CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE..."

IN 24 HOURS, I'LL TELL YOU THE REAL STORY BEHIND THOSE "EXPLOSIVE" ACCIDENTS!

WHEN THIS NEWS GETS AROUND, IT'LL FORCE KRONOS INTO ACTION!

SPACEGRAM
DEAR BOSS:
NOTICE THE OLD FAMILIAR SALUTATION? I'M AS GOOD AS WORKING FOR YOU AGAIN! THAT NIGHT, I WENT TO BED AND STAYED AWAKE...
"TWO HOURS LATER, I HEARD THE HOTEL ROOM DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE. THEN THE LIGHTS FLASHED ON..."
ALL RIGHT, BRANDON--TALK! WHAT EVIDENCE HAVE YOU GOT TO PIN THOSE EXPLOSIONS ON ME?
HUH? WHO'S THERE? WAIT'LL I GET MY GLASSES ON!
OH, IT'S YOU--KRONOS! I WAS ONLY BLUFFING! I HAVE NOTHING ON YOU!
STOP STALLING! YOU KNOW I MADE YOU THE INNOCENT VICTIM OF THOSE EXPLOSIONS SO I COULD COLLECT ON THE INSURANCE POLICIES I TOOK OUT!
TAKE YOUR CHOICE, BRANDON--TALK OR--
SORRY, I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY!
"DEFIANTLY, I WATCHED AS KRONOS PRESSED THE GUN TRIGGER..."
THE GUN--EXPLODED IN MY HAND!
I HID A TINY BOMB IN YOUR GUN, KRONOS! THE VIBRATION TRANSMITTER IN MY SPECTACLE FRAMES DETONATED IT!
BOOM!
"AT A SIGNAL FROM ME, THE POLICE RUSHED INTO THE ROOM..."
WE OVERHEARD EVERYTHING KRONOS SAID TO YOU, BRANDON! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH ON HIM NOW TO IMPRISON HIM FOR 100 YEARS!
"WELL, BOSS, NOW THAT I'VE REDEEMED MYSELF, DO I GET MY JOB BACK--PLUS A BONUS?"
SURE, I'LL GIVE BERT HIS JOB--AND A BONUS TOO! THESE NEW SPECTACLES, TO REPLACE HIS BOOBY-TRAPPED ONES!
The End

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